GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:58
ANSWERED ON:06.02.2017
Expansion of ESI
Datta Shri Sankar Prasad;Suman Shri Balka

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a)the rules/regulations and the guidelines for registration of workers especially in the unorganised sector under the Employees State Insurance (ESI) scheme;
(b)whether the Government has launched/proposes to launch a new scheme for promotion of registration of employers and employees and if so, the details including the salient features thereof;
(c)the number of workers presently availing the facility of ESI scheme and the number of such labourers out of the total number of labourers who are entitled for the said scheme but are not covered thereunder, State/UT-wise;
(d)whether the Government proposes to bring in more employees from Public and Private Sectors as well as unorganized sector into the ambit of ESI Scheme and if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard; and
(e)whether Employee State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has also enhanced/proposes to enhance ceiling on Medical Expenditure and if so, the details thereof along with the other measures taken by the
Government to make the functioning of ESIC more transparent and convenient for all stakeholders?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA)
(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 58 FOR 06.02.2017 BY SHRI SANKAR PRASAD DATTA AND SHRI SUMAN BALKA REGARDING EXPANSION OF ESI.

(a): Employees' State Insurance (ESI) Act, 1948 applies to factories/establishments situated in the notified areas in the organised sector employing 10 or more persons. However, Section 73(B) of the ESI Act provides for framing of schemes for other beneficiaries and the members of the families for providing medical facilities in any hospital established by the corporation in any area which is under-utilized on payment of user charges.
An online platform is available on official website of the ESIC to the employers to register the coverable employees in the implemented areas. The employers are required to register the factory/establishment under ESIC Act within 15 days {Section 2(A) read with regulation 10 (B)}. After the Act becomes applicable to the units, they are also required to register their employees {Section 2(9) read with regulation 11,12 & 14 of ESI General Regulation 1950}.
(b): Yes, Madam, a Scheme to Promote Registration of Employers/Employees has been launched to give one time opportunity to the employers to cover left-out/uncovered employees. The Scheme is open from 20/12/2016 to 31/3/2017. The salient features of the Scheme are as under:
I. The Employers registered during the period will be treated as covered from the date of registration or as declared by them.
II. The newly registered employees shall be treated as covered from date of their registration.
III. This will not have any bearing on actions taken/required under the ESI Act, if any, prior to 20th December 2016.

(c): The number of workers presently availing facility of ESI Scheme, State/UT-wise is at Annexure. However, total number of labourers who are entitled for ESIC but not covered is not maintained.
Contd..2/-

(d): Under ESIC Reform Agenda 2.0 launched in July 2015, expansion plans for ESIC have been set up which include:-
a) Full coverage of districts where ESI Act is partially implemented;
b) Coverage of districts headquarters of non-implemented districts;
c) Coverage of renaming area of non-implemented Districts.
d) So far 283 districts fully and 37 districts headquarters of the non-implemented have been notified for implementation;
e) In addition, ESIC has also launched/approved two separate schemes to provide medical facilities to selected category of self-employed workers like Auto-rickshaw drivers and Domestic Workers and their family members on pilot basis at Delhi & Hyderabad.
(e): The ESI Corporation in its meeting held on 15th December, 2016 has approved enhancement of ceiling on medical expenditure incurred by State Governments from Rs.2,150/- to Rs.3,000/- per Insured Person for the year 2017-18.
To make the functioning of ESIC more transparent and convenient for all stakeholders, ESI Corporation has, inter-alia, taken following measures:
a) Launch of independent Public Grievance Module 2.0 for lodging Grievance online through website 'www.esic.in' or 'www.esic.nic.in'.
b) Establishment of Public Grievances Redressal System at each level.
c) Toll Free Helpline to ensure speedy Redressal and expeditious disposal of public grievances.
d) Starting of medical helpline facilities.

e) Starting of special OPD in the afternoon from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM for Senior Citizens and Differently - abled patients.
f) Suggestion to State Governments to form State Level Organization for better delivery of medical care.